

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 25

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
18 August 1982

The Red Brigades Have Strange Partners in Crime

Rome
To prove they were still alive and well, Italy's Red Brigades recently murdered the police chief in Naples. They claimed to have marked him for execution because of his implacable war on the Camorra, a Neapolitan version of the Mafia whose current gangster bosses could have taught Al Capone a thing or two. The Camorra "has in-

Europe

By Claire Sterling

vented a new quality of struggle" against the enemies of the proletariat, said the Red Brigades.

This pronouncement confirms just one of the shady connections formed by the Red Brigades over the years: with organized crime, the "black" neo-fascist right, the international drug traffic and the KGB. The evidence on all these counts, provided by past and present Red Brigaders in communique, confessions and testimony in court, has been coming to light piece by piece.

The links among all of Italy's left-wing terrorist groups and the whole of Italian gangland—the Neapolitan Camorra, Calabria's 'Ndrangheta, Sicily's Mafia—were first revealed by the "repentant" Carlo Fioroni in 1979. Corroborated later by dozens of other penitenti, Fioroni exposed a long-standing informal agreement with the criminal underworld to kidnap for ransom, stick up banks, steal million-dollar Renaissance paintings and even champion racehorses, and split the take fifty-fifty. The first snatch staged jointly by the Red Brigades and the Mafia was in January 1977 and brought in a \$2.5 million ransom paid to redeem a millionaire shipbuilder. The Red Brigades used their share of the money to finance the kidnapping and murder of Christian Democratic statesman Aldo Moro a year later.

One terrorist unit, United Communist Combat (UCC), was set up in 1976 to spe-

cialize in armed robbery. Its most spectacular joint raid with the 'Ndrangheta, on a Club Mediterranee beach camp in Calabria, netted more than \$2 million in cash and jewels. A UCC member of that raiding team, Raffaele Reggio, was arrested last January for trafficking in drugs.

Just two weeks ago, Milan police rounded up 20 members of another specialized terrorist ring called the Revolutionary Communist Committees (Co.Co.Ri.). Also formed in 1976, it had as its dual purpose to finance and arm other terrorist bands of whatever persuasion—black or red, right or left. In six years it pulled off 60 major holdups, parceling the money out with an

investigators were then led to at least two sensational discoveries. One—revealed this month with the indictment of 62 black and red terrorists—was the existence of a joint service network catering to both sides. Through a 1979 mutual aid agreement the service offered medical care for the wounded, false passports for those on the run, emergency financing (through holdups and the drug trade) and high-quality Soviet-bloc weapons.

Tracing that weapons route, police made a still more stunning find. A formal indictment in January revealed the exis-

What could be more damning, for terrorists killers calling themselves communist revolutionaries, than their entangling alliance with fascists, the Mafia, dope-smugglers and the Soviet-bloc secret services?

even hand. It had also procured massive supplies of weapons, largely of Soviet-bloc origin, sold at cheap "political" prices by radical Palestinian groups in Lebanon and paid for partly with the proceeds of heroin sales. The weapons too were distributed evenhandedly to black and red terrorists.

Co.Co.Ri.'s fugitive founder and leader, Oreste Scalzone, has been exposed by several of his repentant comrades as Col. Qadhafi's man, kept generously in weapons and funds by Libya's leader in the hope of spreading revolutionary disaffection. Scalzone appears himself to have disapproved of other foreign connections made by Italy's left-wing underground and once spoke of the Red Brigades as "an emanation of the Soviet KGB." Nevertheless, the fellow he chose to supervise weapons procurement and delivery, Maurizio Follini, has been indicted as a KGB agent.

Follini was first fingered in the spring of 1981 by a repentant left-wing terrorist. In-

tence of a huge international gun-running ring that provided Soviet-bloc weapons, shipped through the Middle East and Libya, to Italy's right- and left-wing terrorists. An intersecting ring smuggled heroin into Italy through Bulgaria from Turkey. Heroin sales helped cover the cost of the weapons. The ring was operated by Libyans, Syrians, anti-Sadat Egyptians and certain unnamed Palestinian groups in Lebanon and backed by the secret services of Libya, Syria and Russia.

Maurizio Follini, acting for Italy's Co.Co.Ri., had been the ring's chief courier to and from Lebanon. In 1978 he attended a summit meeting of the ring's leaders in Damascus; upon driving back through Bulgaria with a load of weapons, he had an encounter with the Bulgarian secret police—described in court by Follini's traveling companion on that trip—that established him unmistakably as a KGB agent. At

CONTINUED